श्री सभापतिः उस पर तो आज चर्चा है, तब बोलिएगा।

श्री राम नाथ कोविन्दः सर, वह चर्चा में नहीं आ पाएगा, क्योंकि मेरा स्पैसिफ़िक सवाल है कि वहां इंटेलिजेंस इनपुट्स देने के बावजूद, अर्द्धसैनिक बल उपलब्ध कराने के बावजूद, राज्य सरकार ने एक माह पूर्व, वहां पर जो अर्द्धसैनिक बल थे, उनको हटा दिया था। तो मंत्री जी, मेरा आपसे सवाल यह है कि क्या उनको हटाने में केंद्र सरकार की सहमति थी या नहीं?

श्री सभापतिः इस विषय पर डिबेट के बाद जवाब दे दीजिएगा।

श्री शिवराज वी॰ पाटिल : ठीक है सर।

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware, Jammu and Kashmir is particularly prone to terrorist attacks. In Jammu, the Raghunath Temple has been attacked twice. There are many other famous temples, like the famous Shiva Temple, the Ranbireshwar Temple and there is the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. In the valley, there are ancient Hindu temples like the Shankarcharya Temple and the Khir Bhawani Temple. Will the Minister be good enough to confirm that special attention is being paid to the highly sensitive State of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the possibilties of terrorist attacks on the holy shrines in the State?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V PATIL: This is a vey valid question. We have taken steps to see that protection is provided to the pilgrimages going to Amarnath, Vaishno Devi and such other places. There are temples like the Raghunath Temple where security ar. angements have been made. We will certainly like to see that wherever it is required, security arrangements are made. We will bring this to the notice of the State Government and from here we will give them all the assistance required for this purpose. But this aspect has to be borne in mind that these religiousplaces are attacked in order to create differences and dissensions in the Indian society and to create division between the different sections of the society. This is becoming a very powerful weapon. That is why we have to keep this aspect in mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 43.

Inquiry points pertaining to SPS

*43. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: †

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Commerce has finalized three inquiry points

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Moolchand Meena.

pertaining to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures that would handle all queries or comments on SPS notification/regulation issued by other member countries of the World Trade Organization;

(b) whether the three inquiry points would be Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for plant protection, Ministry of Health for food safety and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for animal products; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER Of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH):(a)Yes, Sir.

(b) The three enquiry points are Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for plant health or phytosanitary issues, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries for animal health and related issues, and Department of Health for food safety related issues.

(c) The three inquiry points have been established and are functioning now.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणाः सभापति महोदय, मैने वाणिज्य विभाग से SPS के उपायों के संबंध में तीन-चार स्थलों की स्थापना के बारे में पूछा था। मंत्री जी का लिखित उत्तर है कि हमने 3 जांच स्थल स्थापित किए हैं और कार्य कर रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि आपने ये स्थल कब स्थापित किए है और इनकी क्या प्रोग्रेस है?

श्री कमल नाथ : सर, ये जून 2005 में एस्टेब्लिश किए गए हैं और ये अलग-अलग हैं। फूड और सेफ़्टी के लिए अलग है, एनिमल हैल्थ और रिलेटिड इश्यूज के लिए अलग है, प्लांट हैल्थ और फाइटो सेनिटेरी के लिए अलग है। ये जो इन्क्वायरी प्वांइट्स हैं, ये उन चीजों पर जवाब देते हैं, उन पर जांच करते हैं, जो प्रश्न और उत्तर WTO के एग्रिमेंट के माध्यम से अन्य देशों या अपने देश की संस्थाओं और इंड्स्ट्रीज के कोई प्रश्न हों,ये नोटिफिकेशन इश्यु करते हैं और ये हमारे अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय एग्रिमेंट के अनुसार ही स्थापित किए गए हैं।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps his Ministry has taken to coordinate with the relevant Ministries or Departments or whether the regulatory bodies and trade associations coordinate with the Ministries more regularly in order to adequately address the great discrimination faced by the Indian goods in the export market. I would also like to know whether these institutions or departments have notified an effective system to combat this discrimination created through sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, these three inquiry points covering different facets coordinate with APEDA, that is, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA, and with such other organisations. The hon. Member is correct when he says that there are some restrictive measures now more because of India's growing competitiveness globally. There are sometimes restrictions in the garb of sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations imposed in the country because India is getting more globally competitive. The Government is alive to this, and we have taken this up in the on-going negotiations in the WTO.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I think, the basic crux of the question is that there are concerns in our country as well as in other developing countries that issues relating to sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues are being increasingly used as non-tariff barriers by some of the developed countries. And, I think, the issue is not just establishing inquiry points relating to these three areas. The question is that there are very high standards of sanitary and phyto-sanitary compliances which are being insisted upon by the developed countries, and the whole issue revolves around the nation's ability to establish very high standards of testing and certification. Now that requires a very high dose of investment and specialised instruments. Now, in our country,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to your supplementary.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I would like to know whether the Government is investing in creating those facilities where we can properly test and certify our products in compliance with the WTO Agreement.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There are two issues. The hon. Member is right that countries, largely develped countries, are going into more creative methods of imposing conditions which amount to trade barriers. As I have mentioned, we have taken this up, and we are strongly opposing this in the current negotiations because the market access, if denied by virtue of non-tariff barriers, artificially created or by setting up standards which are beyond the national standards of these countries, amount to trade barriers. There are two parts of it; one is the SPS Agreement and the other is the TBT Agreement. The SPS agreement covers health and other such requirements while the TBT covers labelling, packaging, disclosures and things of this sort, etc. Sir, where standards for creating facilities in the country are concerned, we are conscious about, this. And, as I said, in the

last few years India has emerged to be an offensive player in this and, being an offensive player in this, APEDA and various Government agencies are providing assistance for setting up those facilities which are necessary to meet the requirements which we also believe are necessary, not only nationally, but also to meet the international norms.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, even at the cost of repeating, I would like to know what concern the Government has expressed to the UAE authorities over the manner and procedure governing the issuance of rapid alerts. We have heard in a lot of WTO meetings, and expressed our concern also, about the fact that this is creating immense problems. What is the impact of export of fruits and vegetables to these countries in view of these non-tariff barriers? What steps are being taken? And by what time do you think we will be able to achieve our exports of the same level?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, we are having growing exports in these sectors, as the hon Member has mentioned. It is undoubtedly true that it is right now one of our focuses that non-tariff barriers like the ones being mentioned are put there sometimes in the garb of packaging, sometimes in the garb of processes or procedures which we are not able to meet. With India's growing potential to export, whether it is our fruits or vegetables or flowers or whether it is some of our minor forest produce, we have taken this up as a high priority area now, because there is the possibility of a quantum jump in these sectors. We are in continuous discussions and negotiations. Of course, for settlement of other issues, we are putting this in the forefront so that these issues are settled along with any other issue.

Electricity shortage in the country

*44. PROF.ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: †
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a)whetrter facing coal and gas shortage, Government are now focusing on hydro electricity for generating sustainable power to tide over electricity shortage in the country;

(b) whether Power Ministry are facing coal and gas shortage for power plants;

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya.